

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I have an amendment to the amendment. It just says, "provided that in no case shall the tax rates be more than 3.5 percent and 18 percent", because I can see it's developing. We're going to spend ourselves into a situation here, if we aren't careful, where we're going to be at 22 to 23 percent on income tax and 4.5 or 5 percent on sales. If that sounds unrealistic, remember we are already talking an \$828 million basic continuing budget. We then have, quite frankly, the Commonwealth situation which could very reasonably be \$50 or \$60 million. We have A bills that at this point total \$13 to \$15 million, just those that are already hopping along and receiving sanction from this Legislature. We have a proposal from the Governor, one of his leading priorities, \$25 million for teacher salaries, teacher enhancement, whatever. You're talking, right now, with just the basics, over a \$900 million budget, approaching the billion dollar budget for the first time. Massive amounts over last year. I think maybe the ultimate and only control is the control I suggested in the opening days of the Legislature, and that control is no matter what we do, no matter what we say, no matter what we spend we are still going to keep the tax rates at 3.5 percent and 18 percent maximum. That was what was committed to these citizens in one form or another last year. That has pretty much been the understanding, I think, of most legislators. I'm just saying since we're out of control, it's obvious, since it's going hog wild, let's put one big fence around all of us, and that is just how high these tax rates are going to be allowed to go this year. I urge you to adopt the amendment to the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a ruling from the Chair regarding the germaneness of the amendment to the amendment. The amendment is one that would purport to set a tax rate. Pursuant to Rule 8, under which this budget resolution is presented, the only thing that can be considered in the budget resolution is the suggested level of appropriation. Nothing in the budget resolution can deal with tax rates. Thus, when Senator DeCamp offers